

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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R 250907Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2216

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,NINT, KS, JA

SUBJ: EMERGENCY MEASURES: JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT'S STATUS

REF: SEOUL 260

BEGIN SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCES INFORM THAT JAPANESE REPORTERS IN SEOUL ARE ABIDING BY ROK PRESS RESTRICTIONS FOR NOW BUT HAVE VOTED TO RECOMMEND CLOSING THEIR BUREAUS IF RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT RELAXED. HOWEVER, JAPANESE PRESS IN FACT APPEARS TO BE AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ROKG ON ISSUE AT LEAST FOR NMO. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE POL COUNS OKAZAKI TOLD CHARGE THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY IS BEING CORRECT AND CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH ROKG REGARDING STATUS OF JAPANESE PRESS CORPS UNDER ROK EMERGENCY MEASURES. IN RETURN, FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ASSURED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IN CASE ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED AGAINST ANY JAPANESE REPORTERS.

2. THUS FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASES INVOLVING JAPANESE PRESS. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER JAPANESE EMBOFFO JAPANESE MEDIA HAVE ADHERED TO ROK EMERGENCY HQASURES TO THE POINT OF REPORTING NOTHING WHICH L OT ALSO REPORTED BY ROK NEWS MEDIA. HE FDTED ONE EXCEPTION WAS
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ASAHI FRONT-PAGE ITEM WHICH ASKED IRONICALLY WITH REFERENCE TO

PRESIDENT PARK'S ASSERTION IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ROKG'S QVSIT-ION IS PRECARIOUS WHETHER IT WAS NOT PARK HIMSELF WHO IS "PERCHED ATOP A HUNDRED FOOT POLE." HE SAID JAPANESE AMBASSADOR GOT SOME STATIC FROM MOFA FOR THAT, BUT THERE WAS NO ACTION AGAINST ASAHI.

3. JAPANESE EMBOFF ALSO SAID JAPANESE PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION HAD ADVISED ROK PRESS ATTACHE PR TOKYO THAT THEY WOULD KEEP SEOUL BUREAUS OPEN, BUT THEY REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO PRESS FREEDOM AND DEMANDED RELAXATION OF RESTRICTION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

4. ATTITUDE OF JAPANESE REPORTERS IN SEOUL APPEARS SOMEWHAT MORE MILITANT, VOCEJLY AT LEAST. OKAZAKI SAID JAPANESE REPORTERS HAD VOTED U SNIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL JAPANESE NEWSMEN FROM KOREA IF RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR REPORTING ARE NOT RELAXED.

KOREAN SOURCE CLOSE TO JAPANESE PRESS MEN INDICATED JAPANESE REPORTERS ARE DIVIDED OVER HOW LONG TO REMAIN PATIENT. FOR INSTANCE, ASAHI CORRESPONDENT IS SAID TO FAVOR PULLING OUT NOW, WHILE NHK PREFERS TO WAIT.

5. IN OTHER PRESS DEVELOPMENT, USIS SOURCE REPORTS INFORMATION MINISTRY HAS ADVISED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB THAT ENTWGENCY MEASURES APPLY NOT ONLY TO STORIES FILED FROM SEOUL FOR PUBLICAT-ION BUT ALSO T REPLIES TO HOME OFFICE "IN HOUSE" QUERIES.
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